

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Snaffle bit (1) for horses or mules, comprising a mouthpiece (2) consisting of at most two side parts, which can be placed between the upper and lower jaws and extend ~~extends~~ crosswise through the mouth, which mouthpiece has a through-opening (7) at each of its two ends projecting out from the sides of the mouth, each opening carrying a ring (3) for the attachment of a rein or a line, wherein the mouthpiece (2) has the shape of an outward-curved or outward-angled bow extending across the tongue (15) and lower jaw (14) and, wherein the bow shape of the mouthpiece (2) is located on a plane extending substantially ~~approximately~~ perpendicular to the through-openings (7), wherein the side parts are connected by a joint (4) that can only pivot around an axis substantially perpendicular to the plane, the joint (4) being located substantially in the center of the mouthpiece (2).

Claims 2-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) Snaffle bit according to Claim 1 [[5]], wherein a pin (13) passes through the ends of the side parts (5, 6) which form the joint (4), the pin being held in place in the end of the one of the two side parts (5, 6) which forms the joint fork (11).

8. (Previously presented) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein a cross section of the mouthpiece (2) is approximately circular and/or elliptical.

9. (Previously presented) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein the mouthpiece (2) is made of a nonoxidizing material.

10. (Previously presented) Snaffle bit according to claim 1, wherein pivot bearing sockets (8), which project out from at least one side of the through-openings (7) and which represent extensions of these openings, are provided on the free ends of the mouthpiece (2), perpendicular to or at an angle of $< 90^\circ$ to the plane formed by the bow shape.

11. (Previously presented) Snaffle bit according to claim 9, wherein the non-oxidizing material is steel.